

1974

SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY MAROONDRAH HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS — 3rd FORM.

Date of SURVEY — Thursday 12th December 1974.
Friday 13th December 1974.

SURVEY of NOXIOUS WEEDS IN
RINGWOOD in the following areas

1. B. J. Hubbard Reserve.
2. Evelyn Rd, San Remo, Cameron Rd. Area.
3. Melville Drive reserve — Oban Rd area.
4. Mullum Reserve.
5. Mullum Creek — from behind Council yard to Ringwood Library.
6. Tamar St reserve.
7. Norwood Reserve.
8. Peter Vergere Reserve.
9. Holland Rd Reserve.
10. Everard Rd. — CNR Maroondah Hwy.
11. Dublin Rd reserve — CNR Maroondah Hwy.
12. Ringwood East Reserve.
13. Vacant land opposite reserve on Dublin Rd.
14. Ringwood Civic Centre area — adjoining Mines Rd.
15. Ringwood Lake.
16. Heathmont Railway Reserve.
17. Heathmont Park.
18. Proclamation Park.

NOXIOUS WEEDS SURVEY.

Aim. 1) To carry out a survey to show the presence of the following noxious weeds in the reserves of Ringwood.

- 1) Bone Seed plant.
- 2) Gorse.
- 3) Blackberries.

- 2) To remove as many bone seed plants as possible from areas affected, ready for burning.
- 3) Where plants are too numerous or too large to be removed, to notify council of the affected areas.
- 4) To record any other areas observed affected by bone seed.

Comments — Two days Thursday 12th Dec and Friday 13th Dec. were used for the survey.

Seven third form students participated, accompanied by 2 staff members (for transport purposes) from MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

Attached is a chart showing areas of the survey and weeds that were observed.

The following areas (to our knowledge) were 'cleared' of bone seed.

1. RINGWOOD LAKE.
2. MULLUM RESERVE
3. MULLUM CREEK — except one large bush at creek end of Georges Rd.
4. Heathmont Park —
5. Heathmont Railway Reserve — except for plants in amongst the blackberries
6. Narrow strip alongside of road to Scout hall at the B.J. Hubbard Reserve.

COMMENTS ON B.J. HUBBARD RESERVE.

This area was so heavily covered with bone seed plants, that it was estimated that it would take quite a few days to clear this area alone.

using quite a few people.

The bone seed plant in this area appears to have been growing undisturbed for quite a number of years. This is an example where this plant has outgrown and prevented the normal growth of native flora. Hedges of bone seed plants stand over 2 metres in height. Seedlings that have grown in under other bushes, have sent long stems out to the light thereby smothering small native plants.

The area covered by the bone seed plant is extensive — particularly towards the west, and possibly covers the "white" area as well, shown on the map, on the western boundary.

We walked as far as the area where the two water courses met and then flowed towards west or N.W.

Another disturbing feature was the number of tree trunks covered with climbing ivy, up to 5-6 metres in height. These trees appeared either dead or dying. At the present moment these appear to be in small numbers, but one wonders whether other introduced garden escapes can become one day a nuisance to our native area here.

The Group leader of 7th Ringwood Scout Group has expressed interest in this survey of B.J. Hubbard Reserve. He has asked me to contact him in the New Year. There is every indication that this scout group may be able to assist in the removal of the bone seed plant from this area, as part of their community service project.

SAN REMO TO EVELYN RD RESERVES

The area on the highest part of this reserve next to the houses, is very heavily overgrown with blackberries (3-4 metres high) and innumerable bone seed plants, mature and seedlings (1-2 metres high).

Private blocks of land in the San Remo, Cameron Rd.

areas are also affected.

Areas along Oban Rd - Ringwood Nth. - see map are also affected.

RINGWOOD LAKE

Quite a few seedlings have been removed from the western side of the lake, and along the S.W. & S. parts (along railway line area.) see map.

This area ~~was~~ had the bone seed plants removed from it. — although more seedlings are likely to come up.

I wish to bring to your notice the large number of tiny seedlings of climbing ivy which are growing under the native shrubs on the W-S.W. side. Maybe these appear more this year because of the wet, and could possibly die off during the dry summer, and not present any problem.

HEATHMONT PARK

After the B.T. Hubbard Reserve, ~~the~~ it was delightful to walk through. The three gorse bushes we saw were removed (although there are possibly others). Only a few bone seed plants were found in this area. — 5 well established plants and about 20 seedlings.

A neighbouring householder opposite the reserve in Sunset Drive, kindly offered to burn off the pile of plants, and keep the area where burnt off, mowed, to prevent seedlings growing.

MOLLUM CREEK

A large bush had to be left, growing under a eucalypt on G.N.S. at the creek end of Georges Rd, as it was too hard to remove. One large bush — library end was removed from near the paling fence.

Effect of Heat on Bone Seeds: — Seeds are extremely hard so unless heat is intense, young seedlings appear very rapidly (even before wattles.)

time did not permit a survey of Wombalano Park, but we have observed land adjacent to Wood St have mature bone seed plants and many seedlings nearby.

Heathmont Railway Reserve.

Mature plants were found along the side of the footpath area, near and amongst blackberry bushes.

All plants were removed from this area except ones amongst the blackberry bushes — This is the mowed grass area. The naturalised native plant area appeared to have only one seedling.

GORZE.

It is with concern we noted the spread of the gorze bush, mainly in the RINGWOOD EAST AREA. On the Breeside Ave nature strip, small seedlings have already appeared. Mature bushes do appear on private property as well as on council reserves.

Along the roadside of Mines Rd, inside Dublin Rd Reserve, the area surrounding R. East oval, bush area near the Civic Centre, are considerable numbers of plants.

Opposite the tennis courts on Dublin Rd, the land contains quite a number of 2-3 metre high gorze bushes.

Effect of mowing GORZE — whilst this prevents the bush from reaching flowering stage, and so spreading seeds, it appears to be the 1st to recover from mowing, and sends out, not one, but quite a few shoots from the main butt, which increases in size, so excluding other plants. (is a hazard in children's playground areas as it is prickly)

Very little appeared in the Nth Ringwood, Heathmont areas.